APR 1 8 2006

NIP-241

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

M. NISHIDA et al

Serial No. 09/940,924

Group Art Unit: 3627

Filed: August 29, 2001

Examiner: L. Jasmin

For: METHOD

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING CONSUMER

GOODS USED IN AN ANALYZER

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22314

April 18, 2006

Sir:

Before continued examination on the merits, and in reply to the final Office Action mailed January 18, 2006, the Applicants request reconsideration as follows.